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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT City of Svilengrad

DATE DISTR. 4 Aug 50

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- The city is located on flat ground on both banks of the Maritsa river. It is surrounded on all sides by vineyards, fields, and orchards. The town is important for its silkworm industry.
- 2. After the arrival of the Communists most of the small stores were eliminated and construction was begun on large stores, none of which are completed. In the north section of the town source observed a large three-story building under construction which, it is said, will become a hospital. streets of the town are straight, wide, and unpaved, and electrically lighted.
- 3. Among the important buildings of the town is a four-story silk factory which is enclosed in a large courtyard. Another four-story building is the government Palace which is the seat of the District Directorate. The principal street, the Istanbul Avenue, runs from the station through the center of town straight to the border. On this avenue are located the government pelace, the court, the Militia, the post office, and such departments as the Directorate of Supply. Opposite this building are the municipal offices, the banks, the Sofia and Maritsa hotels, and the border central headquarters.
- The population is estimated at 12,000. Minorities include a number of Armenian families and a gypsy quarter. People in the city give less attention to religion today. The Communists are endeavoring to shake religious beliefs by every means, and in the surrounding country they have ordered work days on Sundays and religious holidays so as to keep people from going to church.
- The railroad station, the Gara Svilengrad, lies on the Europe-Istanbul line. The Maritsa river is not used as a waterway. Public transportation consists of only one bus which makes one daily trip to the station and during the rest of the day it travels between the town and the village of Madinovo located north of the town in the foothills of the Sakar Balkans. Trucks belong to the government and are used to carry tobacco.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- 6. Most people earn their livelihood from agriculture. Besides the silk factory there also exist two small wool rag factories.
- 7. The town has two hotels, the Sofia and the Maritsa, now owned and operated by the municipality, one co-educational lycee, and one movie theater.

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- no knowledge of the Militia, but remembers the name of the Chief of Militia in Svilengrad as Cemal.
- 9. The class of 1928-1929 is in military service now. An unidentified border 5X1A outfit is stationed at Svilengrad. There have been no war preparations in the area. to join 8 Lab

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